

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this Amendment, claims 13 and 14 are canceled and claims 12, 16, 17, 31 and 32 are amended. Claims 12, 15- 24, 27-28, 30-32 and 35 are pending subsequent to this Amendment.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:**

The Examiner stated that claims 14, 17, 20, 32 and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 14, prior to the present amendment, this claim depended from claim 13 which, in turn, depended from claim 12. By the present amendment, claim 12 is amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13 and claims 14. Claims 13 and 14 are canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass claim 12 to allowance.

Since all remaining pending claims, claims 15- 24, 27-28, 30-32 and 35, depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 12, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass these claims to allowance.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:**

The Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/11476 (Savage) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,141,039 (Tansei). As stated above, claim 12 is amended to include the limitation of claims 13 and 14. The Examiner stated that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, which, if

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fact, was done here. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to these claims.

The Examiner next rejected claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Savage and Tensei as applied to claim 12 and in further view of GB 2015438 (Corner). Again, these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12 or were canceled (claims 26 and 29 were canceled). It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to these claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for initial examination and allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Please charge or credit our Account No. 03-0075 as necessary to effect entry and/or ensure consideration of this submission.
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